

## Amendments to the Abstract

### ABSTRACT

5           An auction service is provided that stimulates competition between energy suppliers (i.e.,  
electric power or natural gas). A bidding moderator (Moderator) receives offers from competing  
suppliers specifying the economic terms each is willing to offer to end users for estimated  
quantities of electric power or gas supply (separate auctions). Each supplier receives feedback  
from the Moderator based on competitors' offers and has the opportunity to adjust its own offers  
10   down or up, depending on whether it wants to encourage or discourage additional energy  
delivery commitments in a particular geographic area or to a particular customer group. Each  
supplier's offers can also be changed to reflect each supplier's capacity utilization. The  
Moderator selects at least ~~two suppliers~~ one supplier to provide energy to each end user, with  
each supplier providing at least a portion of the energy to be used by each end user at an end-user  
15   facility during a specific future time interval.